

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SS-07 SSO-00 NSC-06 NSCE-00

AID-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9395

INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT

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HQ CSAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1375

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PO (DIGGS, CHARLES C. JR.)

SUBJECT: CODEL - CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.

REF: STATE 071837

SUMMARY: GOP FONMIN LATE THIS AFTERNOON REQUESTED ME HAVE DEPARTMENT ADVISE CODEL HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT WELCOME IN PORTUGAL AND WILL GET NO COOPERATION FROM PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. FONMIN REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT CODEL WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER COUNTRY UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATION DEFENSE MINISTER. ABOUT AN HOUR LATER FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR CALLED ME TO SAY AFTER CAREFUL GOPCONSIDERATION MY ARGUMENTS I COULD REPORT CODEL WOULD NOT BE INTERFERED WITH. END SUMMARY

1. WAS ADVISED YESTERDAY MORNING FONMIN WANTED SEE ME 1700 HOURS TODAY FOR EXTENDED CONVERSATION. REFTTEL RECEIVED THIS MORNING AND WHEN INFORMATION OF CODEL'S PLANS GIVEN TO POLITICAL DIRECTOR FREITAS CRUZ HE INDICATED THIS ONE OF SUBJECTS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION.

2. DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH QUESTION BY FONMIN WHETHER
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ANY CONNECTION CODEL'S TRIP TO AZORES AND MY PROPOSED

TRIP THERE. I ASSURED HIM NO CONNECTION, SAID WE HAD NEVER HEARD OF CODEL'S TRIP UNTIL THIS MORNING AND LET HIM READ UNCLASSIFIED RETEL.

3. HE THEN BURST INTO LONG TIRADE AGAINST CODEL, MAIN BURDEN OF WHICH WAS NOT ONLY HIS POSITION ON PORTUGUESE AFRICA BUT FACT THAT AGAINST HIS BETTER JUDGMENT FONMIN HAD ACCEDED AMBASSADOR KNIGHT'S REQUEST THAT HE RECEIVE CODEL AND CODEL HAD LIED BLATANTLY TO HIM IN HIS OFFICE. HE REQUESTED I TRANSMIT IMMEDIATELY MESSAGE ASKING DEPARTMENT ADVISE CODEL HE WAS UNWELCOME PORTUGAL AND WOULD RECEIVE NO COOPERATION PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES.

4. I MADE LONG STATEMENT ALONG OBVIOUS LINES, RECOGNIZING THAT GOP HAD POWER TAKE PROPOSED ACTION AND SHOULD MAKE DECISION BASED ON ITS OWN INTERESTS. SAID CODEL'S OPPOSITION TO PORTUGAL AND ESPECIALLY GOP AP AFRICAN POLICY WELL-KNOWN IN CONGRESS AND US AND THAT REPORT REPEATING SUCH OPPOSITION BASED ON HIS VISIT TO LAJES WOULD NOT CREATE A RIPPLE. ON OTHER HAND I POINTED OUT THAT COMPLAINT BY CODEL OF INSULT TO CONGRESS BY EXCLUDING ONE OF ITS MEMBERS FROM VISIT TO AZORES, PARTICULARLY SINCE VISIT AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WOULD PRODUCE IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL SOLIDARITY AND MADE HEADLINES ALL OVER US.

5. AFTER MUCH PASSING OF SHIPS IN THE NIGHT, HE WONDERING WHY COUNTRY FRIENDLY TO PORTUGAL WAS SO INTERESTED IN GOOD TREATMENT OF MAN LIKE CODEL AND I SAYING OUR INTEREST WAS RELATED MORE TO PORTUGAL'S IMAGE IN US, I SUGGESTED WE CONCLUDE DISCUSSION FOR THE MOMENT SO I COULD SEND MESSAGE TO DEPARTMENT. I SAID I WAS CLEAR THAT MESSAGE SHOULD STATE THAT CODEL UNWELCOME IN PORTUGAL AND WOULD OBTAIN NO COOPERATION PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES, BUT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER MESSAGE SHOULD INDICATE WHETHER GOP WOULD OR WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH HIS TRIP. FONMIN SAID THIS SHOULD NOT BE MENTIONED IN MY MESSAGE BECAUSE HE HAD TO CONSULT DEFMIN WHO HATED CODEL EVEN WORSE THAN HE DID.

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6. I SAID THIS LEFT MATTERS UP IN THE AIR SINCE CODEL PLANNED TO FLY TONIGHT. FONMIN SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR POLITICAL DIRECTOR FREITAS CRUZ CALLED TO SAY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION MY ARGUMENTS IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT GOP WOULD NOT INTERFERE CODEL'S TRIP. I REPORTED THIS BY TELEPHONE TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER.

7. COMMENT: GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD CODEL MAY BE INFLUENCED BY CURRENT
INTRANSIGENT GOP NEGOTIATIONG POSITION ON LAJES BASE RIGHTS
EXTENSION. BUT CLEAR THAT MERE NAME OF CODEL AROUSES VIOLENT
EMOTIONS RATHER THAN INTELLIGENT REACTIONS. I AM ALMOST POSITIVE
FONMIN INTENDED AT OUTSET OF DISCUSSION TO INFORM ME GOP DECISION
FIRM TO REFUSE CODEL ADMISSION TO PORTUGAL. END COMMENT
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON01375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740082-0898
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740452/aaaabvfh.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 071837
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL - CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.
TAGS: OREP, PO, (DIGGS, CHARLES C JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005